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Celebrating their new home

School of Imagination
cuts ribbon on new
state-of-the-art facility
PAGE 12

BUSINESS NEWS

9

TRI-VALLEY LIFE

15

Arts & Entertainment

NEW
SECTIONS



INSIDE THIS WEEK

- NEWS:** PUSD looks at 'moral imperatives' **5**
- NEWS:** Band honors for Foothill **7**
- LIVING:** Be candid about your cancer **16**

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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING



SARA O'BRIEN

Jeff Meyer, CEO of the American Red Cross Northern California blood services region, donates blood at the Pleasanton donor station near the Stoneridge Shopping Center.

Be a hero, donate blood

Jeff Meyer's business is blood, and he wants some of yours and mine. Meyers is the chief executive officer for the American Red Cross Northern California blood services region, which includes the blood donor station at 5556-B Springdale Ave., next to the JC Penny furniture store. Meyer's concern is that where October is usually a good month for blood donations, the center's supply is coming up short. With donations traditionally tapering off as Thanksgiving and the Christmas holiday periods approach, he's worried and asks that all of us who are eligible make an appointment to give blood.

Many donors were squeamish when they first went to contribute, but almost all of them return, Meyer says, which shows it's not a painful process at all. In fact, drawing blood is what his experienced staff does five to six days a week. They're gentle and quick in their probes, and they also hand out very tasty cookies when they're done.

The Pleasanton clinic has a list of regular donors to call when supplies grow critically short. They give blood on average about two-to-three times a year and some have donated 150-200 times already since first starting. Healthy individuals who are 17 or older (16 with a parent's permission slip) can donate blood and the age at the other end has no limit. One recent donor at a Florida Red Cross blood collection station is 94. Which prompted Meyer to emphasize that it's increasingly likely with all of us living longer that we'll need a blood transfusion someday, if we haven't already. If there are no donors, there'll be no blood when we need it. Human blood only comes

from humans; it can't be manufactured or even saved beyond a 42-day shelf life.

Meyer works with schools, churches, businesses and civic and nonprofit organizations to hold blood drives in the field. A recent interfaith drive here sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints brought in 1,600 units of blood. The clinic has a mobile blood collection vehicle that often parks in shopping centers and also a truck filled with supplies that are used for day- or weekend-long blood collections. But it's the walk-in donor at the fixed collection station near Stoneridge Shopping Center who still makes the difference if Pleasanton can meet its quota each month.

Meyer seems especially skilled at achieving that target. Holding a bachelor's and a master's degree from Babson College in Wellesley, Mass., he earned an MBA at the UCLA School of Management and then spent two years with the Peace Corps in the West Indies. He then became a business consultant on a Red Cross building project in Pomona, and the rest is history. He and his wife Marisol moved to Pleasanton four months ago with their two children: Amelia, 5, a kindergartner at Walnut Grove Elementary, and Nolan, 3. When Jeff Meyer is not managing his staff of 200 from the regional blood service offices in Oakland or San Jose, he's promoting the need for more donors.

He notes that the real heroes in supplying the blood that was so urgently needed after 9/11 were those who had donated the week before when their blood was on the shelf at local Red Cross centers and immediately available. That's why he considers those of us who contribute blood today as tomorrow's heroes. There may be no crisis demanding that blood urgently, but it'll be there when it's needed. That's what heroes are all about, Meyer says. ■

About the Cover

Charlene and Mitch Sigman, founders of the School of Imagination, welcome visitors into the new school at the opening festivities last Friday. Photo by Dolores Fox Ciardelli. Design by Kristin Herman.

Vol. XII, Number 41

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Presented by:

Chirag Pandya, MD

Date: November 2, 2011

Time: 7:00 PM

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2nd floor Conference Room
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Over time, inadequate sleep, no matter what the cause, can produce ill health and disease. Join us for this free education seminar where Dr. Pandya will discuss the dangers of sleep apnea, the consequences of sleep deprivation, insomnia and the necessity of good sleep habits.

Dr. Chirag Pandya is a board certified physician with ValleyCare Medical Foundation. He has completed sub-specialty training in Sleep Medicine at Stanford University and is the Medical Director of the Sleep Center at ValleyCare.

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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Has breast cancer touched the life of anyone you know?



Renita Edwards
Customer Service Rep

It has. I have a very close friend of over 20 years who was diagnosed with breast cancer. She went through chemotherapy, and has been cancer-free for over a year now. I had never known anyone that had been affected before, and now I am a trooper for breast cancer awareness. I donate, and did a Relay for Life in her honor.

Christal Hendricks
Finance

Yes, it has. My ex-boyfriend's sister has Stage IV breast cancer and is currently fighting it.



Allison Millar
Administrative assistant

I do know a few people that have had it, but it hasn't affected anyone close to me. It is something that I care a great deal about, and it does concern me.

Jen Easton
Mom

Yes, it has touched my life. My aunt passed away at the age of 34, leaving two young children behind. I had to grow up not knowing her or my cousins. I also have a family member going through treatment at this time.



Amy Scanlon
Stay-at-home-mom

It really hasn't touched anyone close to me, but I do think about it. I have an annual exam to be sure that I stay healthy.

—Compiled by Kerry Nally

Have a Streetwise question? E-mail editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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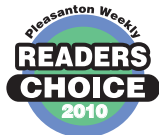
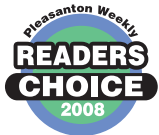
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DIGEST

Wouldn't it be scary NOT to have a costume for Halloween?

Bob and Deb Cilk of Northern California Brokers are conducting their 12th annual Halloween Costume Drive to benefit young people in need in Alameda County. Donations of new and gently used costumes and accessories can be dropped off at their office at 349 Main St., Suite 202 (just above Tully's), in downtown Pleasanton during business hours through Oct. 25.

For more information, call 487-8735.

Candlelight Vigil

Mothers with a Purpose is holding a candlelight vigil at 7:30 p.m. Thursday on Main Street in the memory of those lost to drug and alcohol related incidents and those suffering from the disease of addiction. Everyone is invited to join the vigil, which will take place in front of the Museum On Main, 603 Main St. The organizers plan to hold the event annually.

The group was formed to raise awareness of the epidemic use of prescription and illicit drugs in the community, to provide resources to afflicted families, and to address the root cause of addiction to prevent children from falling victim to drug and alcohol use, abuse, and addiction. Meetings are held at Foothill High School at 7 p.m. on second and fourth Thursdays. For more information, visit motherwithapurpose.org.

Toasts & Tastes of Fall

The eighth annual fundraising event for Pleasanton Partnerships In Education, "Bon Appétit — Toasts & Tastes of Fall," takes place at CarrAmerica Center tomorrow night, with 15 culinary teams, each consisting of a corporate/community sponsor, a Pleasanton school principal, and a Bay Area chef. Each team will be offering signature hors d'oeuvres or desserts featuring seasonal ingredients paired with wines. There also will be a martini bar and live music.

Proceeds will assist in funding programs PPIE facilitates at various school sites and to fill grants submitted by students and teachers of the Pleasanton Unified School District. Tickets are still available; call 846-5620 or go to www.ppie.org. They are \$65 per person, and attendees must be 21 or older.

Corrections

The Weekly desires to correct all significant errors. To request a correction, call the editor at (925) 600-0840 or e-mail: editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

High density housing complex won't have 'that Pleasanton look'

City's largest affordable project earns preliminary OK from planners

By JEB BING

Agreeing that a new affordable housing project won't have "that Pleasanton look," city planning commissioners nevertheless gave their thumbs up Monday to what is likely to be the city's highest density residential housing complex ever.

BRE properties of San Francisco plans to build a mixed-use, high density residential and commercial development in Hacienda Business Park that will have more than 500 apartments, and approximately 5,700 square feet of retail space on the buildings' ground floors.

The project will include eight apartment

houses and two "mixed-use" buildings with 255 residential units on one site bordering on Owens Drive with another 10 buildings housing 247 residential units on a second site extending north from the intersection of Gibraltar and Hacienda drives.

Some of the planned four-story buildings look even taller because of their architecturally stark, multi-colored designs and large, overhanging roof caps. The four-story buildings will include elevator service, although no elevators will be placed in the three-story buildings.

In addition to the apartment and mixed-use

buildings, two additional structures are proposed: a 3,380-square-foot club/fitness center and a smaller leasing office.

Brian Dolan, director of Planning and Community Services, told the city Planning Commission that the BRE designs "reflect the residential area already in the (business) park," although some commissioners didn't agree.

"This (project) looks different," said Commissioner Phil Blank. "While I think the 'Pleasanton look' is an important concept, this is something that should be different. It's like

See BRE on Page 8



CAZINHA PORTRAIT DESIGN

It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing

Alyssa Serrao and Angel Negrete dance their way into first place at the annual swing dance competition at Hart Middle School on Oct. 14. Ten couples were narrowed to six in the final elimination round. Second place was taken by Olivia Larsen and Nick Brum, with Taylor Campbell and Jackson Still coming in third. Runners up were Sophia Brown and Andrew Bailey in fourth place, and Frances Tang and Myungsub Kim in fifth. The top three finishers received medals, and all five top finishers received Cold Stone gift cards, flowers for the girls, certificates of participation and — front-of-line cafeteria passes for a week. This is the 11th year the school has held its competition.

Internet-related scams target two men in Pleasanton

One involved Craigslist,
the other an email fraud

A Pleasanton man was defrauded out of cash, while a second man stopped a scam in a separate Internet-related incident last week.

In one, a man who agreed to buy a \$9,000 Corvette through Craigslist sent \$4,500 with a promise to send the balance once he received the title for the car, a police report stated, but neither the title nor the car ever arrived. The man, who lives in the 3200 block of Cheryl Court, filed a report with police on Oct. 13. The case is under investigation and his name has been withheld.

In the second, a man who thought he was working as a mystery shopper was kept from

See SCAMS on Page 6

PUSD looks at 'moral imperatives'

District creates draft mission and vision statements

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

Innovative. Creative. Well balanced.

Those are some of the words the Pleasanton school district is using in its search for new ways to describe its students and looking at where it is, what it wants, and where it wants to go.

The district has created a new mission statement, a list of moral imperatives and a vision statement.

In a four-hour workshop on Oct. 14, board members and administrators came up with what they think are the keys to the district's future.

"We keep looking at our programs — how can we do that better?" Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi told the group, ahead of the discussion about imperatives and the vision and mission statements.

First up was a discussion about the differences between the three. Moral imperatives are what board members and administrators think are the district's responsibilities, according to consultant Edward Porter of Noli-Porter Associates, who led the workshop.

"If it's a moral imperative, you're going to fight for it," Porter told the group.

Initially, the group tossed words like innovation, irresistible and equity into the mix, along with phrases like "every student can learn."

The board members and administrators worked in small groups, then brought their ideas to a table where they all compared notes. Through the process they narrowed down to the items every member thought were essential to include.

Initial ideas for the district's vision statement — where the district wants to be in the future — included phrases like "adaptable, curious thinkers," "emotionally and physically healthy" and "safe, valued and respected."

Porter explained that the district's mission statement, while it may be similar to others, "should not be transferable." He said when people look at a mission statement, as in the case of a parent considering a move into the area, they should read the statement as something the district can do. In contrast, when people read the vision statement they see the district "can dream nicely."

The workshop participants also looked at other districts' mission and vision statements, noting that many of them are similar.

The drafts of all three statements will go out to a listening campaign, where groups of about 10 will discuss the ideas, with board members and administrators moderating the groups and asking ques-

See PUSD on Page 6

School District draft moral imperatives

We believe that with guidance and support all students can achieve and meet high expectations.

We believe that it's our responsibility to inspire curiosity and a passion for lifelong learning.

We believe all students have the right to a safe, caring and respectful learning environment that fosters positive connections.

We believe in providing learning that is irresistible, creative, relevant and rigorous.

We believe in equitable outcomes for students and in creating socially responsible citizens with character and integrity.

Draft mission statement

The Mission of the Pleasanton Unified School District is to enable and inspire all students to achieve academic excellence. Through an environment of care and connection, students will be creative, well balanced and thriving.

Draft vision statement

Every student will be an innovative, resourceful, resilient and responsible citizen.



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KIM MARTENS

Jogging for Alisal

Melinda Firpo and her kindergarten class give it their all at the Alisal Elementary School jog-a-thon held by the Alisal PTA on Oct. 14 to promote a healthy life style while fundraising for the school. Students at every grade level ran, jogged or walked as many laps as they could for 25 minutes during their scheduled time during the school day after turning in pledge forms for either a per lap amount or a flat donation. Parents were able to run with their children as well as teachers and the school principal, Terri Quesinberry.

SCAMS

Continued from Page 5

getting bilked out of more than \$775.

Ronald Johnson signed on to evaluate Western Union, under directions from Strategic Reflections, a company supposedly based out of Cincinnati, Ohio. He was to look at the service, efficiency and cleanliness of the store — in this case, an outlet on Santa Rita Road.

Johnson received a money order for \$975.75.

"They told me to take it to the bank and cash it and keep \$200," Johnson said. "I went to the bank to cash it and the guy there was on the ball. ... That postal money order had been used before."

Johnson had been told to wire \$775.75 to Frederick Smith in Atlanta, Ga.

He filed a complaint with the Pleasanton postal inspector.

—Glenn Wohltmann

PUSD

Continued from Page 5

tions. That will be done for parents and staff, community groups like the Rotaries, the Chamber of Commerce and large and small businesses. The goal is to have those discussions completed early next year, followed by another draft that will be open for comment from everyone.

"What you're sending out to them is in no way final because you're going to vet it," Porter said. "You're

going to use all the social media that your community is so good at."

While many mission and vision statements become nothing more than wall decorations, Ahmadi said she plans to integrate them into district policy and strategies to achieve each one.

"I honestly will look at this as a roadmap," she said. "I want to have this as something we can give somebody (and ask), 'Is this part of our vision?' 'Is this part of our mission?' 'Is this what we really will do?'" ■



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Local agencies share in Livermore Lab community awards

Cash gifts focus on science, math, cultural arts

By JEB BING

Lawrence Livermore National Security, the contract manager for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, has announced the recipients for the 2011 LLNS Community Gift Program, awards totaling \$100,000.

LLNS received 59 applications totaling more than \$600,000 in requests. Twenty-two applications totaling \$100,000 were selected for awards through a committee review process. The majority of these awards serve children in the Tri-Valley and San Joaquin County, with a focus on science, math education and cultural arts.

"We appreciate the efforts of the agencies and want to thank them for the invaluable contributions they provide in our Tri-Valley community," said George Miller, LLNS president and LLNL director. "It is the privilege of LLNS to be able to contribute to these worthwhile efforts, especially given the impact these gifts will have on education and arts programs within our community."

Award recipients from Pleasanton and other Tri-Valley communities are as follows:

- Pleasanton Unified School District, Project Lead the Way provides engineering curriculum and teaching training support to create upper division courses so that all students have access to their specialization.
- Pleasanton Unified School District, Village High School and Horizon Science & Math Program helps students with unique challenges prepare for high school graduation and college, accommodating learning styles with hands-on materials.
- ValleyCare Health System-Valley-

Care Charitable Foundation, Meals on Wheels & Head Start Food Program provides warm meals to seniors and families. The combined programs have already served more than 200,000 meals this fiscal year surpassing last year.

■ Tri-Valley Haven, Tri-Valley Haven Food Pantry provides essential nourishment by distributing food to Tri-Valley residents in need.

■ Tri-Valley Housing Opportunity Financial Literacy Education for At-Risk Youth and Young Adults offers services/education to enhance the financial literacy of at risk individuals and families by educating them on financial/money management.

■ Dublin Unified School District, Middle School Gateway to Technology, Project Lead the Way Engineering Academy prepares middle school students for the high school's Engineering Academy encouraging them in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.

■ Alameda County Library Foundation provides early literacy computer stations for children 2 to 10 years old, to support school readiness and motivate children to learn to read.

■ Livermore Amador Symphony Association percussion instruments presents musical programs of cultural and educational value for the benefit of the community.

■ Livermore Valley Charter Preparatory High School will purchase physics laboratory equipment and supplies to assist students in gaining relevant hands-on experience.

■ Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, 2011-2012 Science Odyssey will use its gift to assist with their district-wide science fair for all

Livermore Valley Joint Unified School district students in grades K-12.

■ Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, 2011-2012 Teaching Opportunities for Partners in Science provides hands-on activities for 4,500 elementary and middle school students in science education. Funds will be used to maintain and expand the program.

■ Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center, Sponsorship of MatheMagic for Local Elementary and Middle School Students provides K-8 grade school children with the opportunity to attend a presentation, which makes math magical and meaningful.

■ Valley Dance Theatre, The Nutcracker Performances for Local School Children provides dance education bringing "The Nutcracker" to East Bay school children. ■



JEFF HORNING

Music! Music! Music!

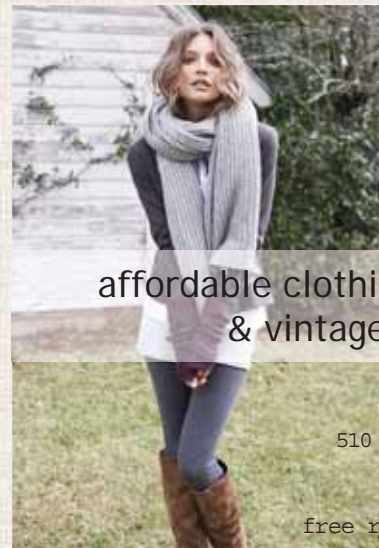
Foothill High musicians strut their stuff at the Cupertino High School Tournament of Bands on Oct. 8: Jarrett Indalecio (alto sax), Akshay Ravikumar (clarinet), Dhyan Parekh (alto sax), Kenny Shin (clarinet, behind Dhyan and Ravi), and Ravi Nagda (alto sax). Foothill bands, under the direction of Joshua Butterfield, returned home with five first-place trophies in their AAAA division.

Tomorrow Foothill High will lead the way as 50 high school and middle school bands march down Main Street beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the 37th annual Band Review, followed by the Field Show at Foothill from 4-10 p.m. Concert competition takes place in the morning at Amador Valley High.

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Dr. Chirag Pandya has joined the ValleyCare Medical Foundation specializing in sleep, pulmonary and critical care medicine. He recently completed sub-specialty training in Sleep Medicine at Stanford University and is the medical director of the ValleyCare Sleep Laboratory at the Valley Memorial Center in Livermore. Dr. Pandya received his medical degree from Sardar Patel University and completed his residency at Cleveland Clinic Health System in Cleveland, Ohio.

In 2010, he completed a fellowship in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center in Detroit, Michigan. His areas of interests include: COPD, asthma, sarcoidosis, interstitial lung disease, pulmonary hypertension, bronchoscopy, critical care medicine as well as various adult and pediatric sleep disorders. He plans to stay active as adjunct clinical faculty for the Stanford Sleep Center.



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TAKE US ALONG



Bavarian adventure: Cecilia Johnson shares her Weekly with relatives Vroni Ruml and Kathrin Holzkamm while enjoying the outdoor beauty with them in Bavaria, Germany.

Ghost Walk

October 2011

21st 6:00– 8:00pm
22nd 6:00– 8:00pm
28th 6:00– 8:00pm
29th 6:00– 8:00pm

Meet the ghosts of Pleasanton's past...
Let the spirits guide you on this haunted tour of the things that go bump in the night!

Tours depart the museum each 30 minutes. Tours are approximately 2 hours long.

\$18 Adults
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BRE

Continued from Page 5

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ent themes. This will differentiate what we're trying to create here from the Pleasanton look."

Commissioners Jerry Pentin and Jennifer Pearce agreed, adding that the three- and four-story charcoal, blue and gold-colored buildings should have more of an "industrial look" because they're part of a transit oriented development that is close to the BART East station.

Added Planning Commission chairwoman Kathy Narum: "It sure doesn't look like Pleasanton, but I'm comfortable with the plans."

Monday's workshop meeting was the first time the Planning Commission had a detailed look at the specific site and building designs from BRE, which hopes to start construction in early 2012. BRE will make changes suggested by city staff and the commission and return in mid-November with a final plan for the Planning Commission to consider and vote on.

That action will then be considered by the City Council at a meeting in December.

Monday's presentation ended more than a year of community meetings by the Hacienda task force to consider the types of structures and placement of affordable housing units that the City Council allowed in 2009 when it rezoned vacant land in the Hacienda Business Park to accommodate more housing for mid- to lower-income tenants.

Although separate from the proposed new zoning changes to accommodate even more affordable housing as required by state and court orders, the Hacienda high density complex will add to the city's inventory of this type of housing.

The density of the proposed Hacienda complex is estimated at 30.29 dwelling units per acre, consistent with the standards established for the Hacienda site but significantly

more than other apartment complexes in Pleasanton.

At first in its year-long planning process, BRE resisted committing ground floor units with 40-foot depths for retail uses to serve the complex, such as a beauty salon, dry cleaners or coffee shop. BRE said its survey showed an abundance of those kinds of retailers already doing business nearby and that it was unlikely more would want to open at the BRE complex.

Eventually, BRE relented, agreeing to start out with 30-foot-deep residential units in those first floor spaces and eventually converting them into retail space when needed.

A drawback, said BRE's Irwin Yau, is that those units will have 30-foot depths that could be converted into retail space. But planners said most retailers would need at least 40-foot depths and it was also pointed out that these temporary apartments would only have windows at the front, making them less attractive to renters.

Unlike many large high-density apartment complexes, the new Hacienda development will have no internal streets. Driveways off the major bordering streets will offer the only access to parking spaces in the middle of the complexes.

Open space also will be limited. BRE has set aside a .55-acre site in one area, about the same size as Veterans Park on Peters Avenue in downtown Pleasanton. A pool, playground and other recreational areas also will be provided for residents.

Besides the tall concrete and glass structures lining Gibraltar, Owens and other Hacienda streets, a drive-by look at the structures will show mostly garage doors much like the San Francisco Marina district. To meet the city's off-street parking requirements, BRE will build many of the apartments over ground-floor garages. ■

Women's apparel store to open in former Fleet Feet space

Lanvie Apparel will add Main Street as its third location

Lanvie Apparel, a popular women's boutique in the cities of Alameda and Walnut Creek, will open a Pleasanton branch at 310 Main St., in space formerly occupied by Fleet Feet athletic apparel that relocated earlier this month to expanded facilities at 234 Main St.

Craig Semmelmeier of Main Street Property Services, which owns both buildings, also announced that he is negotiating

with a new tenant for another of his properties in Tully's Plaza, where Bibiane, a bakery, recently closed.

Lanvie Apparel has been designing and manufacturing its products for more than a decade. The retailer offers the contemporary woman the innovative concept of fashion that one finds in a boutique, but with the same high-quality apparel found in stylish department stores.

Its products include tops and blouses, dresses, jackets, coats, skirts, pants, handbags, shoes and women's accessories.

Laura Olson, executive director of the Pleasanton Downtown Association, said that Semmelmeier, whose firm developed Tully's Plaza, is also in the process of negotiating a lease for a new restaurant for the vacant space in the restored building that now houses the newly-relocated Fleet Feet store. ■

Rotary Spirit Run set for Oct. 30

Club urges runners to don costumes for Halloween weekend event

The Rotary Club of Pleasanton will hold its first-ever Halloween Spirit Run on Sunday, Oct. 30, with proceeds going for community service projects in Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley.

The event, patterned after the club's popular Father's Day Spirit Run, will include a 5K road race as well as several races for children. Mike Hosterman, chairman of the Halloween-themed Spirit Run,

said it will be a family-friendly event. Participants are encouraged to come in costume.

Club members as well as volunteers from other civic organizations will staff the event on race day. Registration will start at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot on Main Street shared by Domus and Round Table Pizza.

The 5K race will kick off at 9 a.m. under the Pleasanton Arch,

with a 50-yard and 200-yard races for children scheduled at 10 and 10:30 a.m.

Main Street will be closed for the event with its reopening set for shortly after 11 a.m.

Hosterman said sponsorships are still available for the event. More information can be found on the Rotary Club's website at www.pleasantonrotary.org. ■

Lowe's closing 20 stores, but Dublin's staying open

'Closures necessary to improve profitability,' company CEO says

Financially-pressed Lowe's, the superstore chain with one of its newest stores in Dublin, announced this week it will close 20 underperforming stores this week in 15 states, including two in California.

Robert Niblock, Lowe's president and CEO, told the Sacramento Business Journal that the closures are necessary to improve profitability.

The California stores marked for closing are in Westminster and in Los Banos, not far from where Lowe's last week won approval from

the Salinas City Council to locate a new store there. A city spokesman said plans to break ground for the new store within the next two months are still on track.

Lowe's opened its Dublin store three years ago at Grafton Station, but so far that outdoor shopping center has failed to attract many other retailers. Competitor Home Depot has major stores just a short distance away in both Pleasanton and Livermore.

Home Depot petitioned the city of Pleasanton to allow it to build a

second, more upscale store at the corner of Bernal Avenue and Stanley Boulevard. That request failed to gain much interest on the part of the City Council, but Home Depot and the property owner seeking the zoning approval ultimately dropped the bid.

Lowe's, headquartered in North Carolina, previously predicted it would open about 30 stores in the coming year, but has since scaled that back to 10 or 15 stores a year starting in 2012. ■

Washington Hospital earns special nursing award

Fremont medical center 5th in Bay Area to receive recognition

Washington Hospital in Fremont has been granted the Magnet status recognition by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

The Magnet program recognizes health care organizations that provide "nursing excellence"

"Back in 1994 when I became CEO of Washington Hospital, we made a strategic decision to invest in our nurses as a critical element to our overall success and delivery of health care to our residents,"

said Nancy Farber, chief executive officer of Washington Hospital Healthcare System.

"We implemented a high nurse-to-patient ratio before it was mandated by the state of California," she added. "Today's honor of receiving this Magnet designation is a direct product of that investment and a great testament to our nurses, our management team and our board."

A designation by the Magnet Recognition Program is awarded

to hospitals that provide a superior level of health care for patients, display innovative practices and employ nurses as part of a team that perform excellent work, according to Magnet program representatives.

Magnet representatives said Washington Hospital is only the fifth hospital in the Bay Area and 24th in California to achieve this recognition. Only 6.7% of hospitals in the U.S. have earned this status. ■

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LETTERS

Not too neighborly

Dear Editor,

Today a group of Cub Scouts had a strange and sad experience with the new Fresh and Easy store in Pleasanton's Rose Pavilion.

We had gotten email approval from the manager to sell popcorn in front of their store. As any parent with a young boy knows, it can be quite tough to persuade them to overcome their shyness and reassure them, "No, the store won't come out and yell at us."

Unfortunately that's just what happened.

Thirty minutes after we started, the manager of the new store came out and told our boys to leave. There were dozens of parents who had planned to arrive at certain hours, and we had to try to contact them all to cancel.

Other local stores like Raley's and Safeway have always allowed local kids' groups to have the occasional sale. Fresh and Easy splashes its "good neighbor" and "green" signs all over — but it seems that reality doesn't match their claims.

Tom Benson

Letter to garbage company: RIP, waste container

I am saddened to report that Esmeralda, my Green Waste Container, was seriously hurt during a Thursday morning encounter with a large truck who picked her up while she was standing quietly in the street, minding her own business.

That morning, I had heard a low rumble followed by some thump-

ing and banging. I was going to ignore it, thinking one of the neighborhood teenage girls was circling the court sharing her music with those of us who weren't out of bed yet, but I got up to take a peek out the window.

I was just in time to see my dear Esmeralda wrapped helplessly in a pair of steely arms and lifted high in the air, her wheels spinning in desperation as she was drawn toward the mouth of the truck. She was turned head over heels, her top flopped open, and everything she had was swallowed by the insatiable truck. Seeing that she had nothing left to offer, the truck dropped my poor Esmeralda in the gutter and moved on without even a backward glance.

I could see that Esmeralda didn't look quite right and rushed outside to see if she was OK. To my horror, I discovered that her top was not in place, exposing her. One of the straps holding her top in place had been snapped, bit even worse, there was a crack in her bottom!

I don't know if you have a GWC hospital where Esmeralda can be restored, or perhaps a retirement home?

Bob Sinz

Editor's Note: Pleasanton Garbage Services issued Mr. Sinz a new green waste container and recycled his old friend Esmeralda.

Write a Letter to the Editor at Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com or put your opinion on Town Square at www.PleasantonWeekly.com. Letters must be 250 words or less.

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

New study highlights region's economic assets, challenges

A new study by the East Bay Economic Development Alliance shows that our local economy is increasingly dependent and driven by innovation. Thanks in large part to the presence of three national research laboratories (Lawrence Berkeley, Lawrence Livermore and Sandia) and UC Berkeley, the East Bay is more than three and a half times more concentrated in scientific research and development than other regions. Projected to grow at an average annual rate of 3% over the next eight years, the region's professional, scientific and technical service industries are certain to be significant accelerators of that growth.

The study, entitled "Building on Our Assets: Economic Development & Job Creation in the East Bay," was produced by the East Bay EDA in partnership with Workforce Investment Boards in Alameda and Contra Costa counties and Oakland as well as the East Bay Community Foundation. The report examined trends in the two counties over the past 15 years and looks ahead to ways to keep the economy strong and growing.

It shows that despite the current economic situation, the East Bay has underlying assets that bode well for the region's future: a highly educated workforce, world-class research and development institutions, growing innovation industries in life science and clean and renewable energy, a central location, vital goods movement infrastructure at the Port of Oakland, and a wide variety of housing options, open space and recreational opportunities that give our area an edge over other regions.

Although the recession has taken a heavy toll on East Bay jobs and recovery is currently limited, Karen Engel, East Bay EDA's Executive Director points out that the report shows why this region is poised to return to prosperity in the long term — across a variety of industry sectors.

Notably, the report shows that venture capital trends reveal the strength of the innovation sectors in the East Bay. In a 2010 national ranking of U.S. counties, Alameda County was in the top 10 in receipt of VC funds in nine of the 14 industries tracked. We ranked second in three industries, just behind Santa Clara County in each case. Local firms in those industries — industrial (or clean) energy, semiconductors and electronics instrumentation — received more than 11% of all such investments nationwide. The East Bay is also a leading recipient in computer technology, consumer and business products and biotechnology. The East Bay's top 10 VC investments exceeded \$1 billion in 2010.

The report also reveals the strength of the East Bay's advanced manufacturing sector. Here, we are seeing an increasing concentration of employment in advanced manufacturing even while employment in manufacturing overall continues to decline. This reveals a more subtle story: the key role the East Bay is playing in providing production space for high technology companies that are located in Silicon Valley. In fact, the report provides evidence of the very close economic ties between Silicon Valley (Santa Clara and San Mateo counties) and the East Bay in terms of employment and establishments.

The full report is even more optimistic about the economic future of the Tri-Valley and the East Bay. Copies can be found online at: www.eastbayeda.org/research_facts_figures/building_on_our_assets_2011_Report.htm. ■



Visit Town Square at PleasantonWeekly.com to comment on the editorial.

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THE ROTARY CLUB OF PLEASANTON

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

We know Pleasanton is a great community. Yes, we have a charming downtown! Yes, we have wonderful parks! Yes, we have great schools. But what truly makes Pleasanton great is the people who contribute to make our community better.

I've met a number of professionals looking for ways to "give back" to the community. At the Rotary Club of Downtown Pleasanton you'll find other professionals doing good things in the community and around the world – all while having fun. Here you'll meet some of Pleasanton's finest people.

You might know us from our Father's Day Spirit Run where we raise money for college scholarships for local students. You may not know that we deliver wheelchairs to grateful people in developing countries, or through Rotoplast we give the gift of smiles to young people needing surgery, or that we've helped eliminate polio from all but four countries on the Earth.

At the Rotary Club of Pleasanton we focus on two things – doing good things and having fun. I invite you to visit us at our weekly lunch meetings at Hap's Original Restaurant downtown from 12:15 to 1:30 every Thursday. You can find us online at www.pleasantonrotary.org or www.facebook.com/pleasantonrotary.

— Gary Alt

Rotary Is All About Service...



Runners of all ages competed at the Pleasanton Rotary's annual Father's Day Spirit Run. Registration fees support the club's scholarship program. In the last 12 years, more than \$344,000 has been raised for scholarships for Pleasanton graduates.



Left: The Pleasanton Rotary partnered with the Wheelchair Foundation to provide wheelchairs for people in poor or remote areas around the world.

Right: Every year our club hosts a holiday dinner at the senior center where club members prep and serve almost 400 meals.



This page is sponsored by these local businesses...all members of the Rotary Club of Pleasanton



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INAUGURAL Halloween Spirit Run

5k Run/Walk at 9 am Kids Challenge at 10:15 am
Costume division with prizes for the best costumes
(includes kids division and adult division)

Sunday, October 30, 2011

THE ROTARY CLUB OF PLEASANTON
www.pleasantonrotary.org



Pre-Registration

Kid's Challenge (2-8 yrs) – \$5
5k – \$20 Elementary & Middle School Students; \$30 High School Students & Adults
All events – \$20 each, family of 4 or more

Race Day Registration (opens at 7:30am)

Kids Challenge (2-8 yrs) – \$10
5k – \$25 Elementary & Middle School Students; \$35 High School Students & Adults
All events - \$25 each, family of 4 or more



We have a home!

rejoices School of Imagination

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The School of Imagination opened its new state-of-the-art campus in Dublin last Friday with children, music, speeches, tears of gratitude and a tour of the large, airy facility.

"It's an absolute miracle that the community came together to provide this incredible gift for our children and families," said Charlene Sigman, an educator and speech-language pathologist who founded the school's precursor, Happy Talkers, with her husband Mitch.

In 2001, they opened their Pleasanton home for daycare and therapy for children with speech delays, autism and other developmental needs, beginning with four children in their living room. The endeavor grew until, still in their personal home, Happy Talkers served more than 120 children each week. It came to be recognized as a much-needed community resource and evolved into the School of Imagination.

For a decade the Sigmans and their team of specialists and educators have moved from place to place — for a total of eight times. Most recently the school was held at Crosswinds Church, with the teachers packing up their classrooms each Friday afternoon and reassembling them Monday morning.

But last week they finally settled into their new 12,000-square-foot permanent facility, which was custom-built by Discovery Homes at 9801 Dublin Blvd. at its Schaefer Ranch development.

Move No. 8: Education center cuts ribbon on new state-of-the-art facility

"We finally have a permanent home. It's a dream come true," Charlene Sigman said at the ribbon cutting.

KTVU/Channel 2 Sports Director Mark Ibanez, whose child has attended the School of Imagination, was emcee.

"It's a great day for me," Ibanez said. "Not many times do we get to celebrate the fruition of a miracle."

He noted that he'd recently heard that 10 years ago we had Johnny Cash, Steve Jobs and Bob Hope — today we have no cash, no jobs and no hope.

"We always have to have hope," he added. "Hope leading to a dream leading to this. Hope is alive and well in the Dublin-Pleasanton Valley."

Children and staff arrived in a colorfully decorated bus, courtesy of Black Tie Transportation, to join in the celebration because, as Ibanez said, "How can you dedicate a school without children?"

After they gathered around the flag pole, members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6298 and American Legion Post 237 raised first the American flag, then the flag of Dublin, then — for the first time ever — the flag of the School of Imagination.

At the dedication, both Charlene and Mitch Sigman thanked Discovery Homes, which donated the land and the building.

"Many times we could have thrown in the towel — but we couldn't because of the chil-

dren," Charlene said. "Thank you for making this school a reality."

"The Seeno family has no idea what a gift they've given us," Mitch added.

They also thanked the city of Dublin for its support, including former Mayor Janet Lockhart and current Mayor Tim Sbranti.

"Mitch and Charlene were so clear about their vision and what they wanted to see," Lockhart told the crowd. "They brought a dream to all of us."

Sbranti called the school a perfect example of a public-private partnership and said people across the state and even the country have heard of the School of Imagination.

"People are blown away," he said. "It's one of the most unique facilities in the United States."

He also, as a teacher, expressed amazement that the staff has been disassembling its classrooms each weekend.

"I have trouble once a year, in June and August," he commented.

Once the ribbon across the school's entrance was cut, the Sigmans remained at the entry, shaking hands and hugging supporters as they poured in to see the large open classrooms and the colorful playground.

"As a parent of a 7-year-old with autism, I can tell you firsthand that developmental and educational opportunities of this caliber

simply don't exist," Ibanez said.

The School of Imagination has an "integrated inclusion model," which means that it pairs typically developing children and children with developmental disabilities.

"In this environment, children don't learn prejudices and discrimination because of a person's differences," Charlene Sigman said. "They learn compassion, patience and understanding. It's the way the world is supposed to be."

The School of Imagination earned the Jefferson Award for Public Service in 2006 (San Francisco Chronicle and CBS5 televi-

sion) and is considered a national role model for inclusion programs.

Its full inclusion preschool and kindergarten programs are cutting edge and provide small, customized classes and low student-to-teacher ratios.

The school also provides developmental and educational programs as well as free screening and outreach services for children with developmental disabilities such as autism. It now reaches more than 300 children weekly, attracting students from as far as Sacramento, Napa and San Jose. Ten children are diagnosed with autism every day just in California, according to The Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

"If there was a School of Imagination in every community across America, just think how the lives of children with special needs would be enriched," Ibanez noted.

For more information on the school or to reach the Parent Support Network, call (877) KIDS-TLC (543-7852) or visit www.soi4kids.org. ■





DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Above, l-r: Charlene and Mitch Sigman, founders of the School of Imagination, cut the ribbon to celebrate the opening of the new facility built by Discovery Homes in Dublin; tiles decorated by financial contributors are now part of the front landscaping at the school; three flags are raised for the first time in front of the new school — the American flag, the flag of Dublin, and the flag for the School of Imagination; this colorful alphabet rug is one of the many delightful features in the open, airy classrooms. At right: The back yard sports new playground equipment on artificial turf — with a wonderful view of the hills.



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

Wednesday, October 26, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- **PGPA-17, City of Pleasanton, Housing Element and Climate Action Plan**
Receive comment on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (DSEIR) for the Housing Element Update (including 17 sites for rezoning) and the Climate Action Plan, both of which apply citywide.
- **P11-0615, Doug Dillenburg**
Application for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a massage establishment with up to 13 massage technicians at 3003 Hopyard Road.
- **P11-0458, Ron Panich**
Application for Design Review approval to demolish an existing duplex structure located on the west side of the property located at 446 Sycamore Road and to construct an approximately 2,739 square foot addition to the existing residence and related site improvements.

Kottinger Place Task Force

Tuesday, October 25, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.
Pleasanton Senior Center Classroom,
5353 Sunol Blvd.

- Discussion regarding the potential future renovation and replacement of Kottinger Place (240 Kottinger Drive) and Pleasanton Gardens (251 Kottinger Drive) senior's apartments.

Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Committee

Monday, October 24, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.
Senior Center Classroom, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

- Trails Project Status Report
- Safe Route to Transit Grant Application – Improvements on Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton Avenue, and at the Pleasanton Ace Train Station
- Committee Contacts with Media
- Bicycle Volumes at Locations with Microwave Bicycle Detection
- Results of Application to League of American Bicyclists for Bicycle Friendly Community Status

Energy & Environment Committee

Cancelled

General Information

Volunteer Docents Needed

The Alviso Adobe Community Park is looking for volunteer docents to assist with their Education Program Team. Volunteer Docents must enjoy learning and conducting hands-on activities with school groups on Thursdays and Fridays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

To apply visit www.helpendahand.org or call 931-3479
Application Deadline is October 28, 2011. All Volunteers must be fingerprinted and tested for TB.

**ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
AND PUBLIC COMMENT IS WELCOME**

The above represents a sampling of upcoming meeting items.
For complete information, please visit
www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar

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POLICE BULLETIN

Woman arrested for abusing father

A Pleasanton woman has been charged with elder abuse involving her 89-year-old father.

Janice Yvonne Moss, 52, was arrested after her

mother called a sister in another town to complain about the abuse; that woman, in turn, contacted Pleasanton police.

Police were told that there was both physical and verbal abuse as well as threats.

The call to the 5600 block of Owens Drive came in at 11:16 a.m.; Moss was booked into the Santa Rita Jail and was ordered held on \$50,000 bail.

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available. Under the law, those charged with offenses are considered innocent until convicted.

Oct. 12

Theft

- 10:38 a.m. in the 4100 block of Hopyard Road; grand theft
- 11:32 a.m. in the 400 block of Main Street; petty theft
- 1:13 p.m. in the 3500 block of Vallero Court; grand theft
- 2:38 p.m. in the 4300 block of Foothill Road; theft
- 4:05 p.m. in the 5700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- 4:30 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 7:21 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; identity theft

Burglary

- 9:46 a.m. in the 300 block of Brienne Court

Drug/alcohol violations

- 10:36 a.m. in the 4600 block of Bernal Avenue; marijuana possession
- 8:15 a.m. in the 4300 block of Foothill Road; marijuana possession
- 12:25 p.m. in the 4600 block of Bernal Avenue; marijuana possession

Oct. 13

Theft

- 11:50 a.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; embezzlement
- 3:59 p.m. in the 3200 block of Cheryl Court; obtaining money by false pretenses
- 5:46 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall road; petty theft

Drug/alcohol violations

- 6:46 p.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue; public drunkenness

Oct. 14

Theft

- 12:51 p.m. in the 7500 block of Driftwood Lane; identity theft

Brandishing a weapon

- 9:54 p.m. in the 300 block of Rose Avenue

Auto burglary

- 5:27 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 11:15 a.m. in the 4300 block of Foothill Road; marijuana possession

Oct. 15

Theft

- 11:28 a.m. in the 3800 block of Promenade Way; grand theft
- 6:08 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft

Vandalism

- 8:21 p.m. in the 600 block of Junipero Street; vandalism, possession of false identification

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:33 a.m. in the 300 block of St. Mary Street; public drunkenness
- 2:09 a.m. in the 600 block of Main Street; public drunkenness
- 2:14 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
- 10:32 p.m. in the 610 block of Alvord Way; DUI
- 11:49 p.m. in the 1700 block of Via de Salerno; marijuana possession, underage alcohol possession

Vehicle break-in

- 11:06 a.m. in the 1700 block of Whispering Oaks Way

Oct. 16

Theft

- 8:41 a.m. at the intersection of Norton Way and Tawny Drive; auto theft, auto burglary

- 12:01 p.m. in the 4400 block of Willow Road; theft

- 5:56 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft

Drug/alcohol violations

- 2:06 a.m. in the 3400 block of Arbor Drive; underage drinking on private property, public drunkenness

- 2:15 a.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge Drive and I-680; DUI

- 2:36 a.m. in the 3400 block of Arbor Drive; public drunkenness

- 3:21 a.m. in the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue; public drunkenness

- 10:19 a.m. in the 4400 block of First Street; public drunkenness

- 6:57 p.m. in the 2100 block of Valley Avenue; possession of a non-narcotic controlled substance

- 10:21 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Valley Avenue; DUI

Oct. 17

Assault with a deadly weapon

- 8:04 p.m. in the 4300 block of Foothill Road

Theft

- 11:08 a.m. in the 200 block of Spring Street; forgery, mail theft

Burglary

- 6:14 a.m. in the 1900 block of Santa Rita Road

- 10:29 p.m. in the 3600 block of Andrews Drive

Arson

- 5:34 p.m. in the 2800 block of Vizzolini Court

Auto burglary

- 8:41 a.m. in the 4000 block of Santa Rita Road

- 5:56 p.m. in the 900 block of Division Street

Vandalism

- 5:13 a.m. in the 5600 block of Stoneridge Drive

- 5:19 p.m. in the 5500 block of Springdale Avenue

Oct. 18

Elder abuse

- 11:16 a.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive

Theft

- 1:15 a.m. in the 4300 block of Foothill Road; theft

- 1:20 p.m. in the 400 block of Linden Way; grand theft

- 3:18 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

- 4:15 p.m. in the 2300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft

Vandalism

- 8:06 a.m. in the 5800 block of Laurel Creek Drive

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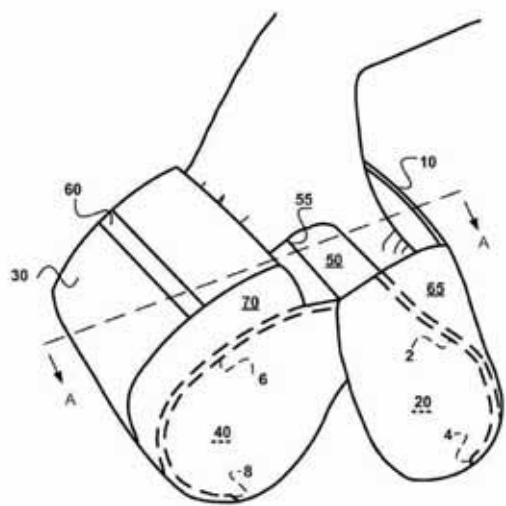


GLENN WOHLTMANN

Sisters Fiona and Orla Lamont look over their patent, with some of the earlier models of their patented product, Yuckease.

*Sisters, students ...
inventors of a 'scoop and seal'*

DESIGN FOR SUCCESS



BY GLENN WOHLTMANN

While others might complain about what the cat dragged in, two local sisters came up with a way to deal with it — and invented a product they hope will sell to homes, food and packaging industries, laboratories and even police departments.

The combination scraper, scooper and container was conceived in 2009 by Fiona and Orla Lamont, both Pleasanton students. Earlier this year, the pair received a patent for the device, which they've named Yuckease.

"We were watching some of the police programs and how they would have to pick up the evidence," Orla explained. "There was no good way they had to do it. We came up with something that could pick things up and keep them in."

The pair created 16 different prototypes in their effort to create their product.

"We both came up with ideas," Fiona said, "and just chose the one we thought would work best."

After that, with a little help from their parents, the sisters hired a patent attorney.

"We hired someone who could take on the job and also do the drawings for it," Fiona said.

She explained that the attorney took their drawings and recreated them in the specific format required by the patent office.

Their attorney worked with them to create a product that was significantly different from others that had received patents.

"There were parts of one that were too close to other ones and also weren't as effective," Fiona said.

Orla compared the process to evolution.

"You have a version and the version keeps changing," she said.

Fiona, a 17-year-old senior at Foothill High and Orla, who's 12 and attends Pleasanton Middle School, used a fast-track application to get their patent. That process looks at the differences between their product and similar ones and anticipates questions from the patent office.

While it can often take years to receive a patent, Yuckease sailed through — from idea to patent in less than two years,

including all their prototypes, which the sisters drew, cut and folded into working models.

"We'd already come up with why it was different and why it was patentable," Fiona said.

They applied for their patent at the end of summer of 2010 and received notice it had been approved at the beginning of this year.

The two spent hours on weekends and summer and winter breaks refining their design, although Orla said it was difficult to work on it on school nights when homework had to be a priority.

The two envision both paper and plastic versions of Yuckease, although no infomercial is in the foreseeable future.

"We hope to maybe manufacture it, maybe put it on the market," Orla said. "I think it really has a lot of different uses."

"You can use it for picking up food," she said, demonstrating with some M&Ms they keep on hand to show off the product. "You can use it for picking up things at a crime scene."

Fiona said they want to refine their plan a bit more before deciding what path to take. One use, she said, is apparent.

"If anyone has a pet that brings in weird things, when they don't want to touch it," Fiona said.

"We use it for picking up tarantulas," she added, pointing toward the hill behind their home.

The sisters are a rarity in the world of patents, which is largely dominated by men. Agnes Lamont and her daughters did some research on patents and this is what they found:

■ The USA has the most patents but is behind Japan and Korea in patents per capita.

■ In the last 10 years, 538 patents were granted to people or businesses in Pleasanton. Of those, 12 went individuals, with the rest going to corporations such as Clorox.



Orla Lamont demonstrates Yuckease with some candy she and her sister keep on hand to show off their product.

■ Only one went to a woman.

Lamont said if young people in general and girls in particular were encouraged to seek patents, it could open up a whole new era of creativity in America, pointing to the number of startups that were begun by 20-somethings. Her daughters had a similar message for their peers.

"I think the main thing people need to do is not sell themselves short," Fiona said.

Orla added, "Just work hard at it and don't say you can't — believe in yourself."

As a senior, Fiona is just beginning the college application process. While she doesn't necessarily think having a patent will help her get into the school she wants, she said it can't hurt.

"I don't think it's one of those things that will make or break me," she said. "I think it'll be impressive."

Orla said she's interested in science, but said it's too early to make any long-term career commitment.

"In the seventh grade, we're still thinking about being firemen and Navy SEALs," she said. ■

SPOTLIGHT



A companion exhibit to the traveling National Watercolor Society show will feature works by five California Watercolor Association artists, including "Wheels" by Marilyn Miller, and "Heads or Tails" by Kathleen Maling.

A splash of color

National Watercolor Society Exhibit
at the Firehouse

The Firehouse Arts Center's Harrington Gallery will host the 2010 traveling exhibit of the National Watercolor Society from Oct. 26-Dec. 11, with an artists' reception from 3-5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 29. The reception is free and open to the public.

This exhibit represents the best of water media painting, featuring a selection from the society's 90th annual exhibit, in 2010, which is traveling to numerous venues nationwide this year.

A companion exhibit, "Five Palettes," will feature works by five California Watercolor Association artists. The artists, all from Contra Costa County, are Leslie Wilson, Marilyn Miller, Maggie Metcalf, Iretta Hunter, and Sue Johnston. Their works are displayed at Gallery Con-

cord, Triton Museum in Santa Clara, Epperson Gallery in Crockett, and Lindsay Dirxx Brown museum in San Ramon plus the artists have shown and placed in many local and state-wide competitions.

Harrington Gallery hours are noon-5 p.m. Wednesday-Friday; 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday; and for one hour prior to each Firehouse Arts Center performance and during intermission. Admission, which includes both the National Watercolor Society and Five Palettes exhibits, is \$5. The exhibits may be attended free of charge on the opening day, Oct. 26.

The Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Ave. in downtown Pleasanton. For more information, call 931-4849 or visit the www.firehousearts.org. ■

One in eight

Being candid about cancer: a gift to pass along

BY GINA CHANNELL-ALLEN

According to the National Cancer Institute, one in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime.

So, as I look around my office, I wonder who's next.

Who's next to get "the call"? Who's next to call her parents with the news, then cry with them? Who's next to contemplate the loss of a part of her body and the sickness and afflictions that accompany cancer treatments? Who's next to look her child in the eyes and have her heart break because there is a very good possibility she will not see her baby girl grow up?

Who's next to feel the imminence of death?

When I got "the call," my immediate reaction was they were wrong. I'm not even 45, no family history, no significant risk factors, there's no way! I even asked the doctor if the biopsy results could be wrong. Then more questions came in rapid succession.

"How big is the mass?"

"We don't know."

"Will I need chemotherapy?"

"We don't know."

"Will I have to have a mastectomy?"

"We don't know."

"Did it spread to other areas?"

"We don't know."

"When will I have surgery?"

"We need to get you into surgery. This week if possible."

The urgency of that statement frightened me. Why immediately? Was it spreading that fast? What did they know that I didn't know? I knew surgery was the only way I was going to get any answers. And waiting for information was excruciating because of all the thoughts that went through my mind all day and through sleepless nights about the future — if I even had a future.

However, I am one of the very few, very fortunate, survivors of breast cancer to have caught it early, avoid a mastectomy and chemotherapy — all because a friend was open about her 30-year-old daughter's diagnosis. Being a master at procrastination, I had put off my annual checkup and mammogram until it became a biennial event. When I heard about this relatively young, healthy woman with no family history being diagnosed, I made an appointment.

It is because my friend did not keep her troubles to herself that

my cancer was diagnosed early. It is because this family shared its pain, heartache and fear that I was able to minimize the pain, heartache and fear for my family.

I went into this journey reluctant to tell anyone other than the people who absolutely needed to know — not my extended family, not my colleagues, not my friends. I didn't want to expose something so personal. I didn't want people to see my fear. I didn't want to appear weak. However, this experience left me with more than a small scar; it left me with a new outlook on life and a new set of priorities. I wasted so much time worrying about perception, lamenting past mistakes and worrying about the future. I will not allow that any longer. Time is too short.

My friend who openly shared her pain about her daughter's diagnosis gave me and my family a gift I will never be able to repay. Now I am sharing my experience with the hope this will prompt some fellow procrastinators to schedule a mammogram appointment, and maybe inspire some husbands, brothers, fathers and sons to encourage the women in their lives to schedule an appointment.

—Gina Channell-Allen,
publisher of the *Pleasanton Weekly*,
was diagnosed with breast cancer
June 29, 2011.



Gina Channell-Allen

Out & About

—Concerts, Film & Live Music

'OF SAX AND SPIRITUALS'

Swedish soprano saxophonist and composer Anders Paulsson is performing from 3-5 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 23, at Mertes Center for the Arts, Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore, accompanying the Valley Concert Chorale. Tickets are \$20. Call 866-4003 or visit www.valleyconcertchorale.org.

FAMILY CONCERT Pleasanton Community Concert Band presents its Family Concert from 2-3 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 13, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. This concert is free, but donations are appreciated. Call 846-5897 or visit www.pleasantonband.org.

TRIBUTE TO GREAT LADIES OF JAZZ Suzanna Smith and her trio bring life to the classics of Ella Fitzgerald, Peggy Lee, Sarah Vaughn and more in a nostalgic, swinging show. Performance is at 2 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 30, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Tickets are \$15-\$25 for adults, \$12 for children, and \$20 for seniors. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

'BROTHELS BANDITS AND BARS' Pleasanton in the 1850s was called "The Most Desperate Town in the West." Main Street was home to brothels, gambling

halls and bandits. Join long-time locals Gene Pons and Phil Henry at 7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 27, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. for a review of the rip-roaring history of Pleasanton. In this entertaining presentation, Pons and Henry will cover the history of our changing community including the time of wild saloons and bootlegging. Call 931-3405.

ANIMAL LOVER'S BOUTIQUE HOLIDAY SALE "For the Animals" is from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 5, at Feline Medical Center, 3160 Santa Rita Rd. All proceeds benefit Jackie Barnett's Just Like New Fund, a Valley Humane Society program that aids sick and injured pets. The Holiday Sale will showcase animal-themed items for pets and their owners. Call 323-8517.

'LEGACY OF QURAN; MESSAGE OF PEACE' American artists tracing their ethnicities from Pakistan, India, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Syria, China, Europe, Africa and the USA are displaying their works, organized by a local nonprofit, Islamic Art Exhibit, through Oct. 23 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call 931-3400, ext. 7. For more information, visit www.islamicartexhibit.com.



LIQUIDLIBRARY/THINKSTOCK

DRAW ANIME AND MANGA Kids in grades 3-8 will receive a 90-minute hands-on introduction on how to draw Anime and Manga. Registration, which opens three weeks prior to the workshop, is for either of two sessions: from 10:30 a.m.-noon for children in grades 3-5, and from 1:30-3 p.m. for grades 6-8, Saturday, Nov. 5, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call 931-3400, ext. 23.

'HAIRSPRAY' Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre is presenting "Hairspray," the fun musical focused on how a teen handles overnight stardom, at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore, on Oct. 22, 23, 28, 29, 30 and Nov. 4, 5 and 6. For tickets, call 373-6800 or visit www.trivalleyrep.org. Tri-Valley Rep is a nonprofit community theater group.

ON THE TOWN



AMERICAN

Eddie Papa's American Hangout

4889 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 469-6266. Winner of The Pleasanton Weekly's Reader Choice Awards for "Best American Food Restaurant" and "Best Meal under \$20," Eddie Papa's American Hangout celebrates the regional food and beverage cultures of America. Bring the whole family to enjoy iconic dishes from across the United States, Old World Hospitality, and hand crafted artisan cocktails. www.eddiepapas.com.

BARBECUE

Red Smoke Grill

4501 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 734-0307. Home of the Tri Tip and Blue, Red Smoke Grill was Voted Reader's Choice Best 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2011. Dine in or take out rotisserie chicken, ribs, prawns, salads and tri tip, or pulled pork sandwiches. Relax with a beer or a bottle of wine. Visit www.redsmokegrill.com.

BREW PUB/ALEHOUSE

The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill

3015H Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 426-9600. Voted Best Watering Hole in Pleasanton, The Hop Yard offers 30 craft beers on tap as well as great food. The full-service menu includes appetizers, salads and grilled fare that will bring you back time and again. Banquet facilities available. On the web at www.hopyard.com.

470 Market Place, San Ramon, 277-9600. Featuring a giant 8-foot projection screen for major sporting events, they also feature 30 beers on tap and a great grill. Go in for the beer, go back for the food. More at www.hopyard.com.

To have your restaurant listed in this dining directory, please call the Pleasanton Weekly Advertising Department at (925) 600-0840

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\$10.95 per person, includes soup or house salad

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Mon-Tue 4:00pm - 7:00pm

Auditions

YOUNG ARTIST RECITAL AUDITIONS

Auditions for piano students up to 21 who live in the Tri-Valley or whose teachers belong to the Alameda County East Branch or MTAC will be held at 4 p.m. Nov. 7-8 at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. The Young Artist Recital will open the Firehouse Arts Center's Liszt Festival on Nov. 20. Email dominiquepiana@comcast.net for an application form. Cost is \$20. Contact Dominique Piana at 455-5333.

Careers

FRANCHISING 101 - DISCOVER

THE OPTIONS Find out what your options are, why so many new business owners turn to franchising, and why franchise success rates are so much higher than non-franchise businesses. The lecture is from 6-7 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 25, at the Livermore Public Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave. This is not a sales event, it is an interactive presentation and discussion on the

franchise industry. Call 1-877-222-3722 or visit www.compassfranchisegroup.com/menuitem/12431.

Clubs

BOOST YOUR CAREER AT

TOASTMASTERS Grow professionally at Chamber Chatters, a Toastmasters club that meets from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesdays at the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, 777 Peters Ave. Toastmasters International is a nonprofit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills. Visit www.chamberchatters.wordpress.com/.

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN

REVOLUTION DAR is a volunteer service organization based on lineage to someone who fought or gave aid to the American Revolution. It preserves historic buildings and artifacts; provides awards and scholarships and supports schools while celebrating our American history. The next meeting is from 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Nov. 5, at DAR, 5649 San Antonio St. For more information, call Ann Narciso at 510-507-5509.

PLEASANTON NEWCOMERS CLUB

This club is a great way for new and established residents to make new friends. It meets for coffee on the first Wednesday of every month and for lunch on the second Wednesday of every month. The group has activities like hiking, walking, Bunco and more. Visit www.pleasantonnewcomers.com or call Ruby M. at 462-6404.

ROTARY CLUB OF PLEASANTON

The Rotary Club of Pleasanton since 1965 has been a leader in the community in helping make Pleasanton a great place to live. It has a luncheon meeting from 12:15-1:30 p.m., every Thursday, at Hap's Restaurant, 122 W. Neal St., Pleasanton. Cost for lunch is \$17. For information, visit www.PleasantonRotary.org.

ROTARY CLUB OF PLEASANTON

NORTH Pleasanton North Rotary invites anyone interested in making a difference. The membership includes 65 professionals, business owners, executives, managers and community leaders. The club meets from 12:15-1:30 p.m. Fridays at the Hilton Hotel, 7050 Johnson Dr. Call 580-7947 or visit www.pnrrotary.org.

VIRTUALLY SPEAKING TOASTMASTERS

Virtually Speaking Toastmasters club meets from noon-1 p.m. every Thursday at Electrical Reliability Services, 6900 Koll Center Pkwy., Suite 415. Everyone is welcome to come see what a positive change Toastmasters can make in their confidence. Call 580-8660.

Concerts

VETERAN'S DAY

Pleasanton Community Concert Band presents its Veteran's Day Concert from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6, at Veteran's Memorial Building, 301 Main St. This concert is free, but donations are appreciated. Call 846-5897 or visit www.pleasantonband.org.

Events

BAY AREA FALL GOLF SHOW

The West Coast's largest fall consumer golf expo is from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Oct. 28-30 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. The 2011 Bay Area Fall Golf Show brings lowest prices on name-brand clubs and equipment from the industry's top manufacturers. \$10 for general admission, \$9 for seniors 62 and older, and 12 and under are free. Visit www.bayareagolfshow.com.

BREW CRAWL

It's trick-or-treating for adults! Downtown merchants, restaurants and local breweries will come together from 5-8 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 29, for a first-of-its-kind event in Pleasanton, hosted by the Pleasanton Downtown Association and sponsored by Handles Gastropub and the Pleasanton Main Street Brewery. Patrons can shop along Main St., sample local craft beers and food pairings. Guests are encouraged to wear costumes. Tickets go on sale Oct. 3 at Handles on Main, Main Street Brewery and Redcoats Pub for \$25. Tickets day of event are \$30. Call 484-2199 or visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

CRAFT FAIR AND PANCAKE

BREAKFAST Hart Middle School is hosting its second annual Craft Fair and Pancake Breakfast on Oct. 30. If you are a crafts person who would like to sell your items at their fair, contact them at 425-0882 or email Yolandahms@gmail.com. Cost is \$25 for a 6-foot table.

FARMERS MARKET

Visit the Pleasanton Farmers Market from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. every Saturday, on East Angela Street between Main and First streets. The Farmers Market is open every Saturday, year-round, rain or shine, to provide the season's freshest fruits and vegetables, sold by the very farmers that planted, nurtured and harvested the crop.

HARVEST GATHERING

Celebrate the fall with festivities, food booths and an old-fashioned Harvest Moon Square Dance, from 3-6 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 22, at the Dublin Heritage Park & Museums, 6600 Dublin Blvd., Dublin. Cost is \$5. Visit www.dublin.ca.gov.

NATIONAL WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

EXHIBIT The annual touring exhibit of the prestigious National Watercolor Society will be on display from Oct. 26 through Dec. 11 at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. A companion exhibit of works by California Watercolor Association artists, "Five Palettes," will also be shown. Admission including both exhibits is \$5. Harrington Gallery hours are noon-5 p.m. Wednesday-Friday; 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday; and for one hour prior to each Firehouse Art Center performance and during intermission. Call 931-4849 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

PEACEFUL WAR PROTEST

Pleasantonians 4 Peace has an ongoing peaceful war protest from 5 to 6 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month, at First and Neal streets. Contact Cathe Norman at 462-7495; Matt Sullivan at mjs7882@gmail.com; or kdowd-ling@pacbell.net. Visit www.Pleasantonians4Peace.org.

WIGS (WOMEN IN GNON

SEMINARS) Learn the largest mistakes woman make when trying to control hot flashes. GNON'er Shannon Williams, certified nutritionist and former personal chef, will share innovative yet simple secrets to stop hot flashes now. Event takes place from 5:30-6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 26, at Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, 777 Peters Ave. No cost to members and \$10 for non-members. RSVP by Oct. 24 at gnoners@gmail.com. Visit www.gnontrivalley.com.

Fundraisers

ARTFUL LIVING HOME TOUR

Junior League of Oakland-East Bay Inc. presents its eighth annual Artful Living Home Tour, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 3-5, at homes in the Diablo Valley. Tickets are \$35 in advance; \$40 at the door. Proceeds benefit the League's continued efforts on behalf of underserved women and children in the community. Call 284-3740 or visit www.jloeb.org.

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE The 35th annual Holiday Boutique hosted by the

Ladies Auxiliary will take place from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 29, and 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 30, at the Veterans' Memorial Bldg., 301 Main St., with a variety of handcrafted items including holiday decorations. Auxiliary supports Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6298. Call 606-7676.

HOWL-O-WEEEN SPOOKTACULAR

A howling good time for you and your dog, the event will feature a dog costume contest, beer, wine, auction and more. The event is from 6-9 p.m., Friday, Oct. 28, at A Touch of Health Spa, 377 St. Mary St. Cost \$25. Call 426-8656 or visit www.valleyhumane.org. Proceeds benefiting the Valley Humane Society.

PADDLE FOR PINK- RACQUETBALL

& PADDLEBALL Support the cause while having fun at this life saving benefit. Enjoy a singles paddleball round robin or racquetball pool play doubles, from 6-9 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 29, at ClubSport, 7090 Johnson Dr. Light refreshments and snacks will be served. Proceeds benefits the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. Minimum donation \$25. Call 463-2822, ext. 570, or visit www.clubsports.com/pleasanton/upcoming-events.

Health

VALLEYCARE BREAST CANCER

SYMPOSIUM For survivors, caregivers, and those whose lives have been touched by breast cancer, as well as the public concerned about cancer and its prevention. The lecture is from 6-8 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 27, at Four Points Sheraton Hotel, 5121 Hopyard Rd. Call 734-3319.

Holiday

HALLOWEEN IS HERE Visit the American Cancer Society Discovery Shop for your Halloween decor and costumes. It has everything from napkins to masks at low prices, cute or scary, to get you in the Halloween party mood. Visit the Main shop, 1987 A Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton, or Home Decor Store. Call 462-7374.

MUSEUM GHOST WALKS

The Museum On Main is hosting downtown tours that highlight Pleasanton's haunted past and present. Ghost Walks take place from 6-8 p.m. Oct. 21, 22, 28 and 29, departing every 30 minutes from Museum On Main, 603 Main St. Call 462-2766 or go to www.museumonmain.org.

HALLOWEEN AT ALVISO ADOBE

COMMUNITY PARK Join City Naturalist Eric Nichols on Friday, Oct. 28, or Saturday, Oct. 29, on a walk around the park to view nocturnal animals of the region including spiders, snakes and frogs. The tour ends with participants making a Halloween craft. All ages 4 and up are welcome to join in the 20-minute tours that begin at 7 p.m. and continue to 8:30 p.m. Fee is \$5 for residents, \$7 for non-residents. Preregister online or by phone at 931-5340.

FOURTH ANNUAL PUMPKIN CARVING

PARTY Being held at Alviso Adobe Community Park from 1-3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 29. Fee is \$5 for

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6TH ANNUAL HALLOWEEN FUN NIGHT The city of Pleasanton is hosting this fun free event 6:30-8:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 28, at the Pleasanton Tennis Complex on Hopyard Road and Valley Avenue. Kids and adults alike attend every year in costume to tour the Haunted Hallway of Horror, enjoy yummy treats and tennis games for all age groups and skill levels including Beat the Pro and Speed Serve. Call 931-3446.

'NIGHTMARE' A TERRIFYINGLY FUN NIGHT OF IMPROV Creatures of Impulse, Pleasanton's own teen improv troupe, will lead the audience in creating the story, setting and characters for three nights of fun, interactive and completely unscripted theater at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 27; Friday, Oct. 28; and Saturday, Oct. 29, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Tickets are \$5 in advance or \$8 at the door with a valid student I.D., and \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door for general admission. For more information, call 931-4828.

Kids & Teens

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS 'SHIFTING GEARS' Las Positas College invites high school seniors and their parents to "Shifting Gears" from 6-9 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 2, in the Physical Education Complex, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Information tables will be open from 6-7 p.m., with the faculty and staff available to speak with students and their parents. The formal program is from 7-9 p.m., featuring presentations about major and transfer academic programs. Students are asked to RSVP online with the name of their high school and the number of persons to attend at www.laspositascollege.edu/news/01hssenioreparenting2011.php.

Lectures/ Workshops

BIOIDENTICAL HORMONES FOR WOMEN OVER 40 "Bioidentical Hormones - What Can They Do For You?" Dr. Lynne Mielke, M.D., will discuss why they are safer than the pharmaceutical alternatives, and how they can enhance your health and quality of life in multiple ways. The lecture is from 7-8 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 25, at Optimal Health Spectrums, 4463 Stoneridge Dr., Suite A. Space is limited to 20 participants. RSVP to 846-8000.

RETHINK YOUR LAWN TALK Learn how to tear out your lawn without tearing out your lawn. Lecture is from 10-11:30 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 22, at Western Garden Nursery, 2756 Vineyard Ave. Bay-Friendly Qualified Landscape Designer Maureen DeComb will provide design tips and demonstrate the innovative technique of sheet mulching for converting your lawn. Drawing for garden gifts at the end. Call 510-891-6500 or visit www.LoseYourLawn.org.

Live Music

'THE OFFICIAL BLUES BROTHERS REVUE' The live concert combines the humor, music and mayhem of the original "Lost in Las Vegas" movie and is appropriate for all ages. Performances are at 8 p.m. on Thursday-Friday; and at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 3-5, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Tickets are \$24-\$34 for adults, \$17-\$29 for children and seniors. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

FOLK FIDDLER APRIL VERCH April Verch and her trio will perform at 8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 12, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. The April Verch Band has won over audiences with its virtuosity, charm, humor and boundless energy. Tickets are \$15-\$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors, and \$12 for children. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

THE SONGS OF IRVING BERLIN The Firehouse Arts Center Cabaret Series continues with Linda Purl and Lee Lessack in "Steppin' Out with My Baby: The Songs of Irving Berlin" at 2 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 6, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. The much-applauded duo will perform Berlin's most beloved songs -- "There's No Business Like Show Business," "Alexander's Ragtime Band," "God Bless America" and many more. Tickets are \$17-\$27 for adults, \$17 for children, and \$24 for seniors. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

Recreation

TRI-VALLEY YMCA GRAND OPENING The Grand Opening Preview of the new Tri-Valley YMCA Facility will take place from 5:30-8 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 3, at 6693 Sierra Ln., Suite F, Dublin. The public is invited to attend and learn about available programs, services and ways to become involved. The event includes tours, refreshments and prizes. Call 263-4444 or visit www.trivalleyymca.org and www.facebook.com/trivalleyYMCA.

Seniors

HARVEST FESTIVAL The Senior Center is hosting a Harvest Festival from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 2, at 5353 Sunol Blvd. Enjoy free arts & crafts, movie, bingo and musical entertainment. Come for a delicious lunch, \$3.75 for seniors and \$5 for adults under 60. Reservations for lunch required, space is limited; call 931-5365 or visit www.pleasanton-seniorcenter.org.

LUNCH PROGRAM The lunch program sponsored by Spectrum Community Services is from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Friday at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Lunch is served at noon. Suggested donation: \$3.25. Reservations required a day in advance by 1 p.m. Call 931-5385.

PEDDLER SHOPPE AT THE SENIOR CENTER The Peddler Shoppe in the lobby of the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., offers the handmade wares of talented local senior artisans. It's a great place to buy gifts. The Shoppe is staffed by volunteers and is open

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to the public 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday; 6 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday evenings; and 9 a.m. to noon on the second Saturday monthly.

RESOURCES FORUM Lynnewood United Methodist Church has invited Marlene Peterson, Executive Director of Senior Support Program, and a representative from the Senior Center to speak on the extensive resources provided to seniors in the Tri-Valley area. The presentation is from 7-9 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 25, at Lynnewood UMC, 4444 Black Ave. Q & A after. Call 294-9635.

Spiritual

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE Tri-Valley residents are invited to join First Church of Christ, Scientist, in the church's 88th consecutive Thanksgiving Day service. The worship hour features a 15-minute period for members to share their stories of gratitude for the year's blessings. Service is from 11 a.m.-noon, Thursday, Nov. 24, at First Church of Christ, Scientist, 263 South N St., Livermore. Childcare is provided. Call 447-2946 or visit www.christiansciencechurchlivermore.com.

Support Groups

BEYOND TREATMENT BREAST CANCER This group provides a safe place to express and share thoughts, concerns and experiences of living with the uncertainty

after treatment for breast cancer, the physical effects and problems related to intimacy, marriage, reproduction and employment. The group meets from 6-8 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month at ValleyCare Health Library and Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite #270. The group is facilitated by Mary Prishtina, RN, and Estee Goren, MFT. Call 399-1177.

CLUTTERLESS SELF HELP GROUP Overwhelmed by clutter? Learn how to deal with it by attending this support group, which meets from 7-8:30 p.m. every Monday at St. Mary & St. John Coptic Orthodox Church, 4300 Mirador Dr., Rm. 7. Call 200-1943 or visit www.clutterless.org.

Volunteering

BLOOD DRIVE The American Red Cross is holding a public blood drive from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 25 at Las Positas College, Student Center, 3033 Collier Canyon Rd., Livermore. Call 1-800-733-2767 or go to www.redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment and use sponsor code LASPOSITAS.

BLOOD DRIVE The American Red Cross is holding a public blood drive from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27 at Sybase Inc., American Red Cross Bus, One Sybase Dr., Dublin. Call 1-800-733-2767 or go to www.redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment and use sponsor code SYBASE.

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Goal for the Grey

Rage Grey U11 forward Karin McCarty shoots for an early goal against the Walnut Creek Cyclones on Saturday at Pleasanton Sport Park. The second half began auspiciously for the Grey, with an early corner by Ecknoor Kaur that led to a shot by Isabella Huyler that was stopped by the Cyclones' goalie. The final score was 1-1.

Black attack

Isabella Segundo scores a goal for Rage U9 Black, Division 3, against the Dublin United Firecrackers on Saturday at Donlon Elementary. The Black won, 7-2.



WARREN MCCARTY

Good show

Pleasanton Rage U10 Black make a fine showing against the Mustang Angels at Diablo Vista Middle School in Danville on Saturday, that resulted in a heartbreaking 2-0 loss. Top offensive Black players were Lydia O'Brien, Sophia Shibliq and Amanda Dilger; top defensive players, Andrea Harding, Paige Oniki and Julia Damiani.



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U19 White moves into 2nd place

Sasha Greenlee of Rage U19 White shoots on goal, as Lissi Knell and Shelby Brown look on, as the squad, coached by Jose Iniguez, settles for a tie against the Danville Mustang Flash, 1-1, on Saturday. The next day, the White edged out the Rage U19 Orange team 1-0, continuing an eight-game unbeaten streak.

Limited to 12 players on Saturday, the team managed to out-play Mustang for major portions of the match, with a collection of near goals and offensive chances from a variety of players including Lissi Knell, Kylie Copenhagen, Shelby Brown, Alex Dickinson, Shannon Malindzak, Caroline Smith and Kennedy Poplawski. Mustang took a 1-0 lead 15 minutes into the second half, but Rage immediately answered with a perfectly placed 20-yard strike from right winger Katie Styles to tie the match 1-1.

Sunday's match was a hard-fought battle between the two talented Rage squads, and was punctuated by numerous scoring



chances both ways, with excellent goal keeping from Brianna Miller and a rock-solid defense lead by Annette Ramirez, Alyssa Ray, Cely Thomas and Jessica Sanassarian. The lone goal of the match came

off a penalty kick awarded when Olivia Cunha was tackled from behind on a run toward goal. Sasha Greenlee buried the shot in the upper right corner to give U19 White the go-ahead goal.

With three victories in its final three matches, Rage U19 White can capture at least a second place finish in league, possibly higher depending on other matches.



It's a goal

Nicole Beheil makes the first goal of her soccer career as the U18/19 Lady Rebels beat the Rage Cyclone, 4-0, on Saturday. The offense attack was supported by Tara Byrne, Rachel Duggan and Rachel Halperin, with defense backed by Nichol Schroeder, Camille Tsztoo and Marie Morley.

SPORTS DIGEST

Amador golfers finish on top

Led by individual medallist Natalie Bodnar's 1 under 70, the Lady Dons finished their 12-0 undefeated season with an all-time low tournament score of 386 on Monday in Brentwood. The win enables them to hang an "Undefeated League Championship Banner" in the Skip Mohatt Gymnasium at Amador Valley.

Monique Riley posted a 76, placing her in the top five for the tournament and No. 3 in the East Bay Athletic League. Kimberly Liu wrapped up EBAL MVP honors with a 79, only going 14 over par for the whole season. Sahar Ali had her best tournament with an 80; Kelly Shotwell scored an 81; and Sabrina Bodnar had a strong 84, in what was her second 18-hole high school tournament.

The team now faces post-season play that begins Oct. 31 as they defend their North Coast Section title.

Club Moto place

Cole Flashberger, 11, took third place in the 2011 CMC Trans Cal Series at Club Moto recently in Livermore. Cole has been riding dirt bikes since he was 2, said his mom Sue, but this was his first competitive race series.

Cole uses the plate number 24, just like his father Dave Flashberger who used to race professionally.

Foothill info meeting

Foothill High is holding an information winter sports meeting at 7 p.m. Monday in the large gym. Winter sports include boys and girls basketball, cheerleading, boys and girls soccer, and wrestling.

On the gridiron

The Foothill Falcons football team won its Friday's Conference game, also its Homecoming Game, against the Granada Matadors by a score of 35-0.

Amador Valley lost to De La Salle, 42-7.

Tonight the Falcons face San Ramon Valley High, to be played at the Danville campus. Amador Valley's next game is Oct. 28, when it faces Monte Vista.

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Phantoms take first

The Pleasanton Phantom 12B fall travel softball team took first place in the Manteca Tournament on Oct. 8-9, winning all five of its games. Team members are (back, l-r) Alex Sanchez, Coach Mike Williams, Emily Trinidad, Mary Rockwood, Madelyn Bianco, Lauren Ho-Tseung, Coach Kristen Ho-Tseung, (front) Claire Fuller, Lauren Kong, Danielle Williams, Sofia Molina, and Maya Nozaka. Not pictured: Emily Crimi and Coach Jenny Williams.



Teddy Bear Classic wins

California Gymnastics Academy Levels 4 and 5 place first

Level 4 and 5 girls from California Gymnastics Academy both took first place team awards at the Teddy Bear Classic in Redwood City on Oct. 16.

In the older category of Level 4, Anna Foehner was first all-around, winning vault with a score of 9.475 and floor with a score of 9.250 and placing second on beam with a score of 9.325. Delaney Watkins was second all-around, winning beam with a score of 9.5.

In the middle age category, Karinna Stevenson took first place all-around with a first place score of 9.350 on the floor and a second-place finish on beam of 9.425.

Julia Humphrey came in second place all-around with a winning score of 9.5 on beam and second-place finishes on vault (9.225) and bars (9.1). Sydney Sullivan placed first on bars with a score of 9.2 and was third all-around.

In the younger category, Carly Oniki placed first all-around in her age group, winning on bars with a score of 9.025 and vault with a score of 9.450. Calli Renner scored a 9.050 on beam.

In the older category of Level 5, Jasmyng Cheng came in first all-around with winning scores on bars (9.475), beam (9.575) and floor (9.4). Daniela Mendiola

won vault with 9.05 and came in second all-around and Yasmine Diyab scored a 9.0 on beam.

In the middle age category, Sabrina Kheirloomoom won beam with a score of 9.4, coming in second all-around. Maya Frank won floor with a score of 9.0 and scored 9.350 on beam for second place. Lily Cuyler won bars with a score of 9.125.

In the younger category, Alexandra Kim won floor with a score of 9.425, Alexandra McMillin scored a 9.65 on beam and placed second all-around. Julieta Mendiola scored a 9.425 on beam. ■

PREP LINE-UP

Oct. 21

- Football: 7 p.m., Foothill vs. San Ramon, away

Oct. 22

- Cross country - Mt. SAC, at Mt. SAC

Oct. 24

- Boys Water polo: 6 p.m., AVHS vs. Liberty, home
- Girls Water polo: 5 p.m., AVHS vs. Liberty, home

Oct. 25

- Girls Tennis: 4 p.m., AVHS vs. Foothill, home
- Girls Volleyball: 6:30 p.m., Foothill vs. Monte Vista, home
- Girls Volleyball: 6 p.m., AVHS vs. California, away

Oct. 27

- Boys Water polo: 7 p.m., AVHS vs. Foothill, home
- Girls Water polo: 5 p.m., AVHS vs. Foothill, home
- Girls Volleyball: 6:30 p.m., Foothill vs. California, home
- Girls Volleyball: 6 p.m., AVHS vs. San Ramon, home

Oct. 28

- Football: 7 p.m., Foothill vs. Livermore, home
- Football: 7 p.m., AVHS vs. Monte Vista, away

Nov. 1

- Girls Volleyball: 6:30 p.m., Foothill vs. Carondelet, away
- Girls Volleyball: 6 p.m., AVHS vs. Livermore, away

Nov. 3

- Girls Volleyball: 6:30 p.m., Foothill vs. AVHS, away

Nov. 4

- Football: 7 p.m., Foothill vs. Monte Vista, away
- Football: 7 p.m., AVHS vs. California, away

Nov. 10

- Football: 7 p.m., Foothill vs. AVHS, home

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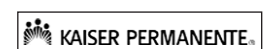
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